Caution: Do Not Open Before December 25th!
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AMBUSH BUG
STOCKING STUFFER
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU...
HAPPY BIRTHDAY LITTLE SWADDLING INFANT--
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU!
IN THIS ISSUE:
THE RETURN OF CHEEKS
THE TOY WONDER!
ALSO: THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS!!
SPECIAL COVER BONUS:
HOW TO SPELL CHANUKKAH!
1935
50
DC
1985
GIFFEN/OLSEN

"SOME NIGHTS, THE DREAM COMES ON STRONG AND I'M BACK THERE AGAIN. BACK IN THAT SAND. BACK IN THAT HEAT.
POP
FRANCIS THE HORSE CLOPALONG Presents:
AMBUSH BUG IN
"I KNEW I SHOULDA TAKEN THAT LEFT TOYN* BACK IN ALBAKOYKY**
* TUAN--JULIE
** ALBUQUERQUE--JULIE
FROM THE ORIGINAL STORY BY JOSEPH CONRAD
YAHOO!
YIPPEEE!
YEEHA!
HONK!
"IT SEEMS ALMOST ABSURD NOW, BUT I WENT THERE WITH BIG PLANS.
YAHOO!
YIPPEE!
YEEHA!
HONK!
"MY LIFE UP TO THAT POINT HAD BEEN A HAPPY ONE, BUT MY NUMBER FINALLY CAME UP.
YAHOO!
YIPEE!
YEEHA!
HONK!
"IT WAS TIME FOR ME TO FACE...
"... THE HORRORS OF VIETNAM.

AMBUSH BUG STOCKING STUFFER 1
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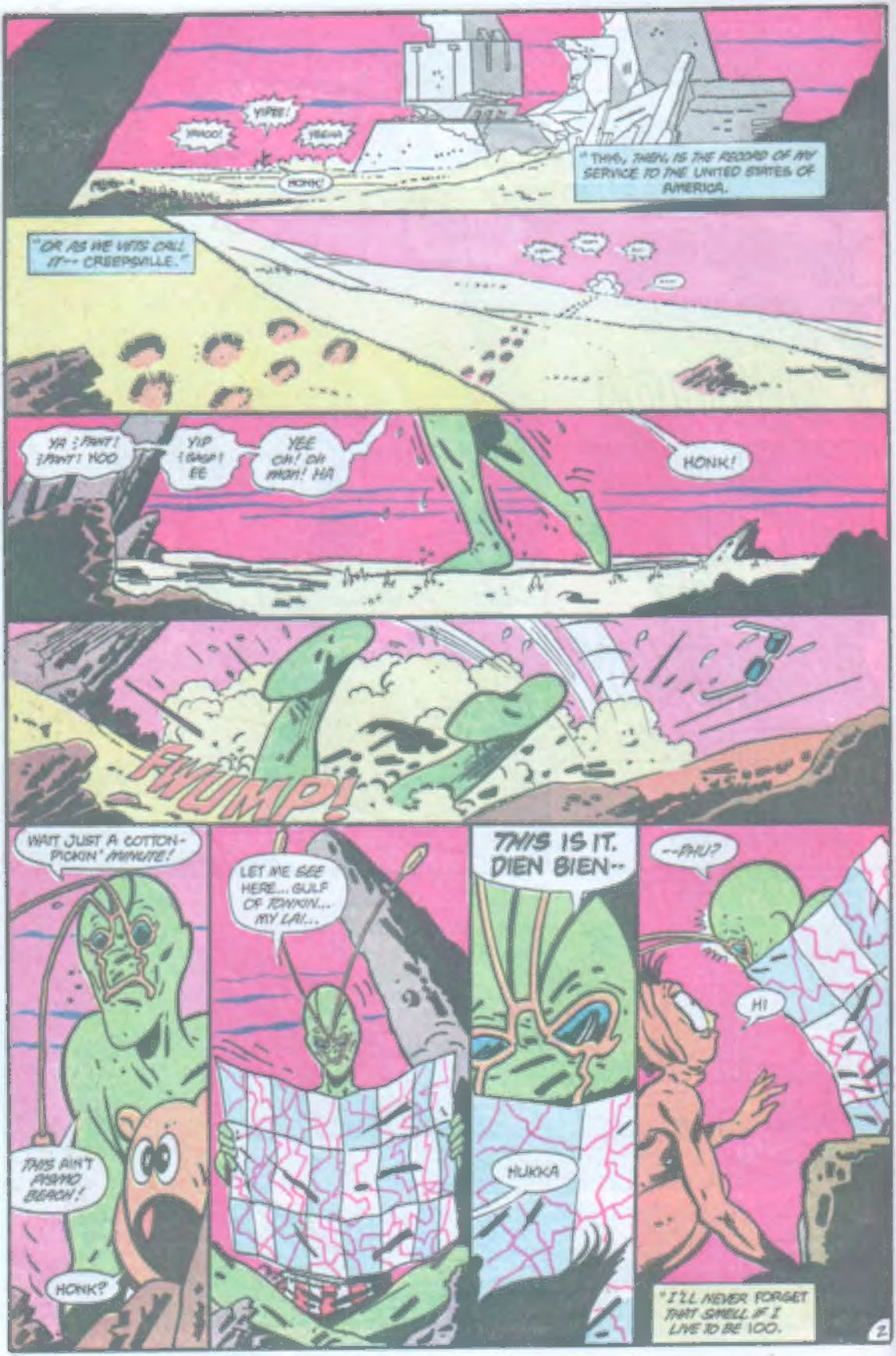
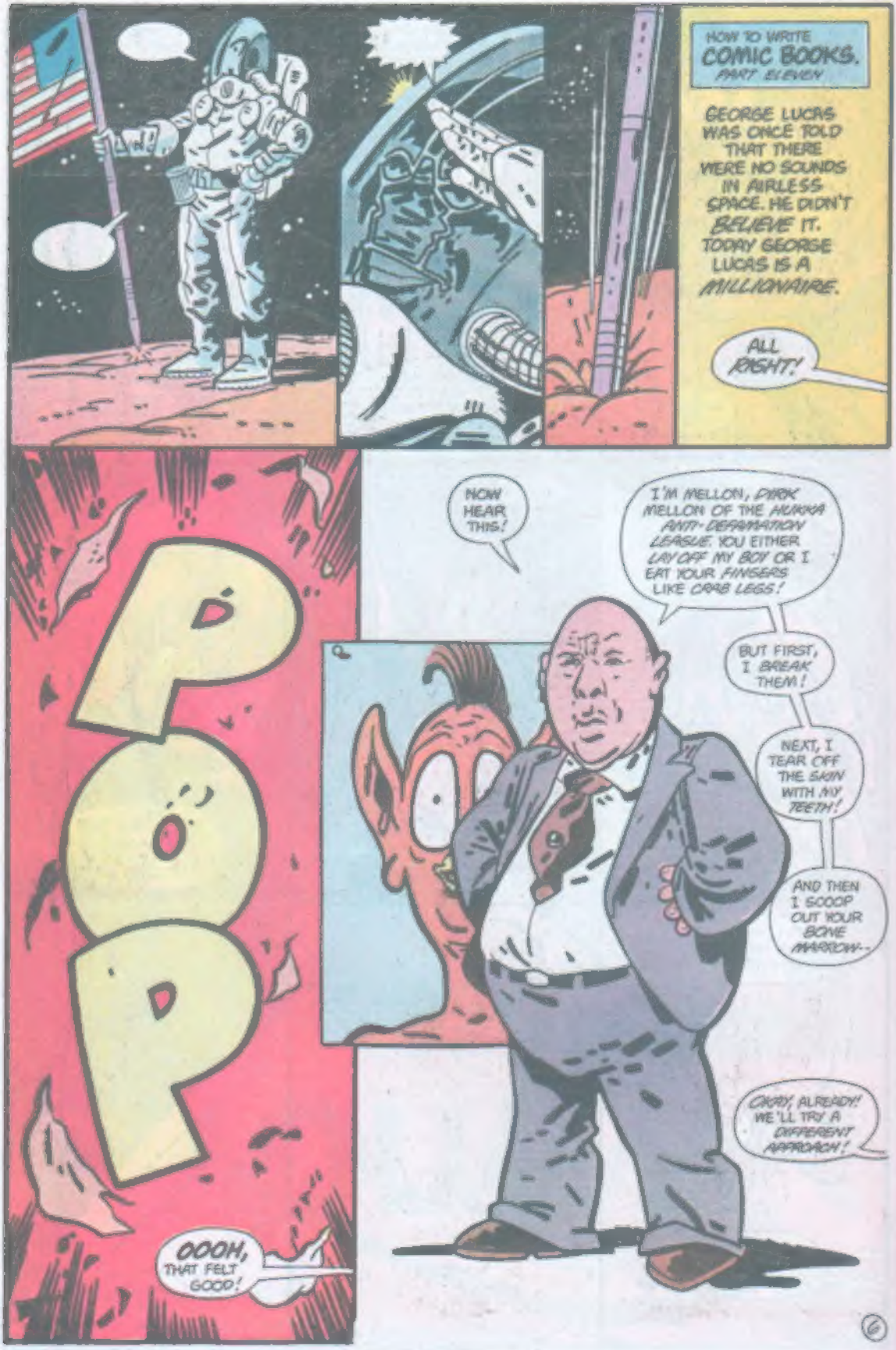

YAHOO!
YIPEE!
YEEHA
HONK!
"THIS, THEN, IS THE RECORD OF MY SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
"OR AS WE VETS CALL IT-- CREEPSVILLE."
YA ! PANT ! PANT! YOO
YIP ! GASP ! EE
YEE OH! OH MAN! HA
HONK!
FWUMP!
WAIT JUST A COTTON-PICKIN' MINUTE!
THIS AIN'T MIAMI BEACH!
HONK?
LET ME SEE HERE.... GULF OF TONKIN... MY LAI...
THIS IS IT. DIEN BIEN--
HUKKA
--EH?
HI
"I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT SMELL IF I LIVE TO BE 100.
2

"CHARLIE!"
YAAAAA
HUKKA FRIEND?
KEEP YOUR FILTHY LITTLE HANDS TO YOURSELF.
"I WAS PETRIFIED WITH FEAR UNTIL I REMEMBERED ONE CRUCIAL FACT.
THE VIETNAM WAR ENDED IN 1975!
THE U.S. WAS DEFEATED. AS THE LOSER, IT'S BEEN SUBJECTED TO COUNTLESS VIETNAM BOOKS, TV SPECIALS...
...FEATURE FILMS, FLAKS, MAGAZINE ARTICLES...
WAIT A MINUTE! MAYBE THIS IS AMERICA'S SECOND CHANCE!
MAYBE I CAN WIN THE VIETNAM WAR!
MAYBE I CAN DO WHAT THOUSANDS OF BRAVE SOLDIERS COULDN'T!
"IT WAS JUST WHAT I'D BEEN LOOKING FOR.
POP!
"A SUMMER PROJECT."
HUKKA BYE-BYE!
GOOD RIDDANCE TO BAD--
BOOM
HUKKA MANDORAID!
3

KABONG KABONG KABONG
I S-SAID...
...T-TAKE THAT, CH-CHARLIE!
AND QUIT R-RINGING THAT B-BELL!
LITTLE DO THOSE BUSHWHACKING VIET CONGS KNOW THAT I SENT GIFFEN, OKSNER, AND FLEMING TO SURPRISE 'EM FROM BEHIND!
:HEH HEH! THEY DON'T CALL ME AMBUSH BUG FOR NOTHING!
WAIT A MINUTE!
SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG! SUDDENLY, I'M THINKING IN UNBROKEN SENTENCES!
4

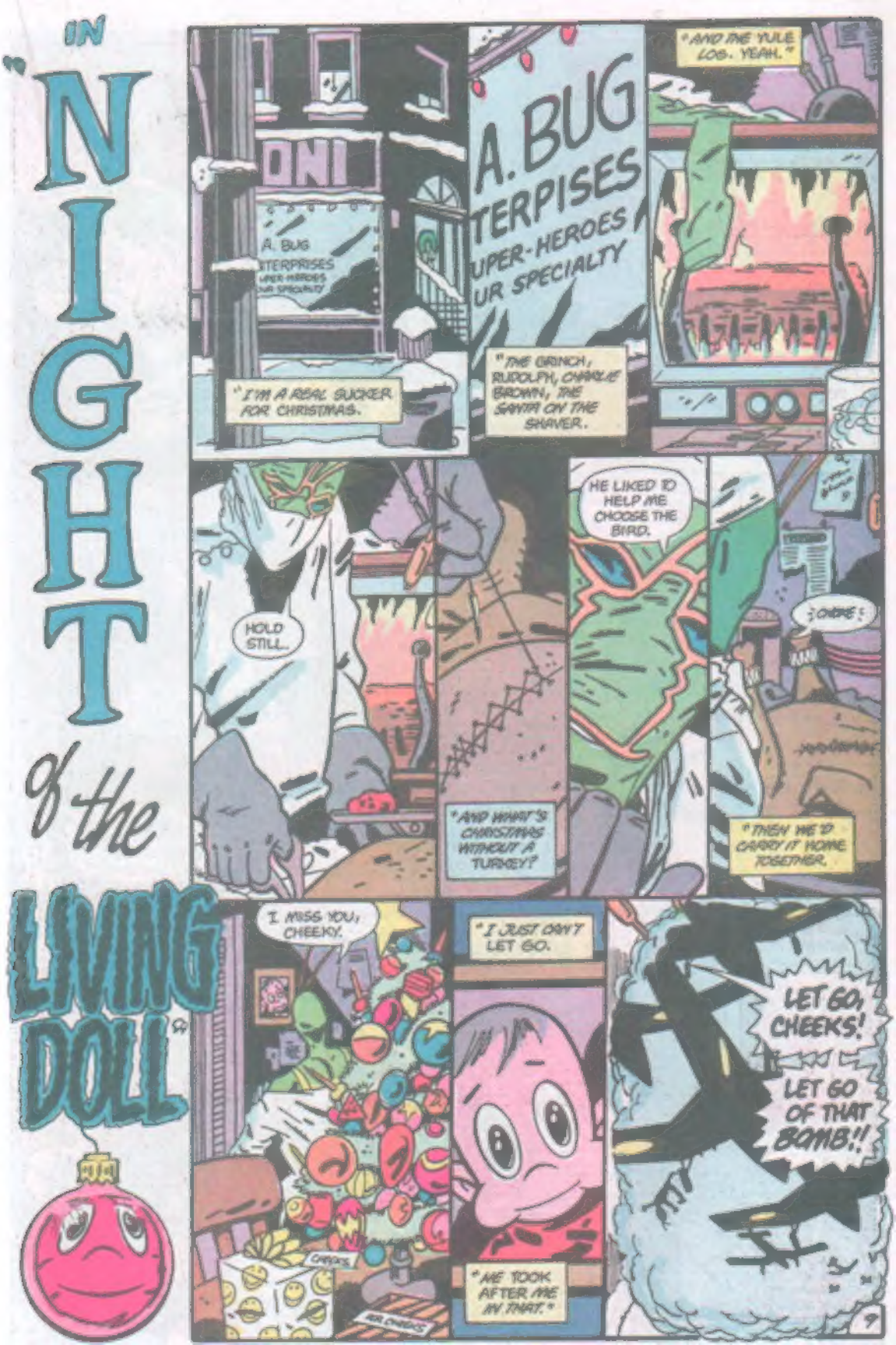
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

HUH?!
WHO ARE YOU?!
WHY CAN I TALK SO CLEARLY? AND WHERE HAVE MY FRIENDS GONE?
I'M FLEMING, THE WRITER. I JUST MODIFIED YOUR SPEECH PATTERN.
THEN... WHO'S THAT?
THAT'S GIFFEN, THE ARTIST. HE JUST ERASED YOUR FRIENDS.
AND THIS IS...
CASSIVER, THE MIXER. HE'S SURROUNDING YOU WITH AIRLESS SPACE.
ULP!
REMEMBER THAT GREEN LANTERN COVER WITH THE EXPLODING BOY?
WELL, WE'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO ONE OF--
NO TALKING IN AIRLESS SPACE, BOB!
SORRY.
5


HOW TO WRITE COMIC BOOKS. PART ELEVEN
GEORGE LUCAS WAS ONCE TOLD THAT THERE WERE NO SOUNDS IN AIRLESS SPACE. HE DIDN'T BELIEVE IT. TODAY GEORGE LUCAS IS A MILLIONAIRE.
ALL RIGHT!
POP
POP
OOOH, THAT FELT GOOD!
NOW HEAR THIS!
I'M MELLON, DIRK MELLON OF THE HUMAN ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE. YOU EITHER LAY OFF MY BOY OR I EAT YOUR FINGERS LIKE CRAB LEGS!
BUT FIRST, I BREAK THEM!
NEXT, I TEAR OFF THE SKIN WITH MY TEETH!
AND THEN I SCOOP OUT YOUR BONE MARROW...
OKAY, ALREADY! WE'LL TRY A DIFFERENT APPROACH!

1,001 USES FOR A DEAD HUKKA
SLAP
#837
ATTRACTS FLIES & KILLS 'EM.
MY FINGERS! THOSE COMIC BOOK WEIRDOS ATE MY DARN FINGERS!
GENTS
LADIES
HUKKAS
DIRTY RATTIN' FRATTIN'--
ERASE MY FRIENDS, SURROUND ME WITH AIRLESS SPACE, STICK ME WITH A FLAGPOLE, BLOW ME UP, KILL FLIES WITH MY FACE. THOSE ROTTEN HUMAN BEINGS--
SPLASH SPLASH
SPLASH SPLASH
I'LL GET THEM!
I'LL GET EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM--
--IF IT'S THE... THE... AW, NUTS!' THIS IS ALL I NEED!'
TUG TUG
CHEAP CRUMMY KEITH GIFFEN TOWEL DISPENSER!
THAT DOES IT! GET HIM, BOYS!
WHOOP!
POP!

WELL, SO MUCH FOR ATARI FORCE. WE'LL TELL THE READERS THE SALES WENT DOWN, THEY ALWAYS BELIEVE THAT.
HEH HEH HEH!
CALL ROY PLEEEEZ
CALL ROY URGENT
WE HOPE YOU'VE ENJOYED OUR LITTLE CARTOON.
#837
DAMMIT! WILL YOU CALL ROY PLEASE!
YOU CAN HIT THE FRIDGE NOW, BUT HURRY BACK! THE FEATURE ATTRACTION IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
OKAY? LET'S GO!
JUST FOLLOW THE BOUNCING [illegible] IT PRESENTS ME--
CANCEL ATARI FORCE
BUG BUG
8
CONTINUED ON PAGE FOLLOWING


IN
"NIGHT
of the
LIVING
DOLL"
A. BUG
TERPISES
UPER-HEROES
UR SPECIALTY
"I'M A REAL SUCKER FOR CHRISTMAS.
"THE GRINCH, RUDOLPH, CHARLIE BROWN, THE SANTA ON THE SHAVER.
"AND THE YULE LOG. YEAH."
HOLD STILL.
"AND WHAT'S CHRISTMAS WITHOUT A TURKEY?
HE LIKED TO HELP ME CHOOSE THE BIRD.
"THEN WE'D CARRY IT HOME TOGETHER.
I MISS YOU, CHEEKY.
"I JUST CAN'T LET GO.
"ME TOOK AFTER ME IN THAT."
LET GO, CHEEKS!
LET GO OF THAT BOMB!!

GAK!!
MISTER BUG?
I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED SOONER!
I KNEW THEY WERE HAPPY AS WELL
I KNEW THAT I HAD BUT ONE RUN
I GAVE IT THE OFF--
"TOO LATE."
DA-DA?

DON'T FEED THE ANIMALS. THEY'RE ALREADY STUFFED.
CANNIBALIZED!
YULP!

SNIFF SNIFF
SNIFF SNIFF
HONK!
CHEEKS
I REMAIN ON THE ALERT! EVER WATCHFUL FOR EVIL TO REAR ITS UGLY HEAD!
OR VICE VERSA
SHARP AS A TACK ON MY TOES I'M ON THE LOOKOUT! ALL EYES AND EARS MY NOSE TO THE--
HEY! DO YOU MIND? THIS IS SERIOUS, FATSO!
HUH? YOU THINK WHAT?
YES NOW I CAN SEIZE IT FOR--
MISTER BUG?
EXCUSE ME MISTER BUG?
I'LL CHECK IT OUT IN MY MEMORY FILE BACK AT THE BUG CAVE
POP!
SEE EVERYTHING LOOKS IN ORDER
OTHER THAN THE MISSING COFFIN, I CAN'T DETECT A SINGLE CHANGE
CHEEKS
MISSING COFFIN!!
12

OH HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID?
I PAID $ 300.00 FOR THAT CAPTAIN AND THE PLASTIC MODEL WAS ONLY $ 12.95
I'M ONLY DEAD INCHES AWAY FROM THE SEA
... WHAT'S HAPPA HAPPA MAMA HAMAHA MA
STOP ME BEFORE I EAT AGAIN
AAAARRRR!!
POLI
TEETH OF THE SEA
THEY'RE BITE MARKS
YES DOC, BUT
I ... I DIDN'T KNOW
I'VE NEVER EATEN ANYTHING ANYTHING LIKE THE BEES NO ONE HAS
I'M NOT ACCUSING ANYONE, BUT WE MAY BE LOOKING AT
...THE END OF RETAILING AS WE KNOW IT!!!
AIN'T
WHERR CLICK
KACHING!
MAMA
AIN'T
BI IS FOR
WHERR CLICK
THE DUCKIES QUACK!
ARF!! ARF ARF ARF!
PHONE HOME!
WAAAA!!
WE'RE ALL OF THE WOUNDS MADE BY THE SAME SET OF TEETH?

HOW TO WRITE COMIC BOOKS

PART TWELVE

SUBTEXT MADE SIMPLE.

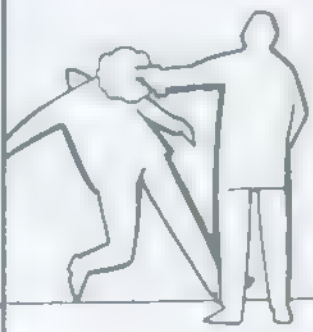
[illegible] OUR ROCK-EM, SOCK-EM SUPER-HERO FORMULAS [illegible] MAINSTREAM COMICS. MANY, MANY [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] SEE MISTER GREEN ROB MISTER BROWN

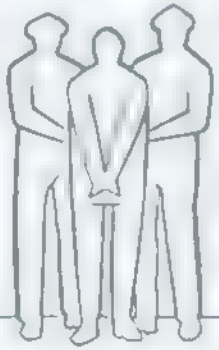
MISTER GREEN DOESN'T HAVE A JOB HE DOESN'T WORK AT ALL

[illegible] MISTER GREEN [illegible] MISTER BROWN [illegible] ROBBED [illegible] ALL HIS MONEY [illegible] MISTER GREEN SAYS HIS ATTORNEY



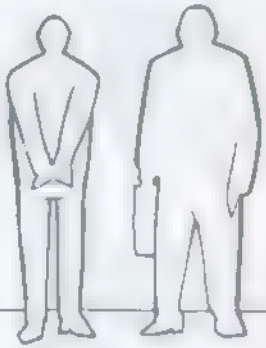
SEE MISTER GREEN RUN. RUN, MISTER GREEN! RUN, MISTER BROWN CAN'T RUN. MISTER BROWN IS DEAD

UH-OH. THE COPS HAVE CAUGHT MISTER GREEN. THEY'RE READING MISTER GREEN HIS RIGHTS.



MISTER GREEN IS ENTITLED TO A LAWYER. MISTER GREEN CAN'T PAY FOR HIS LAWYER, BUT THAT'S OKAY.

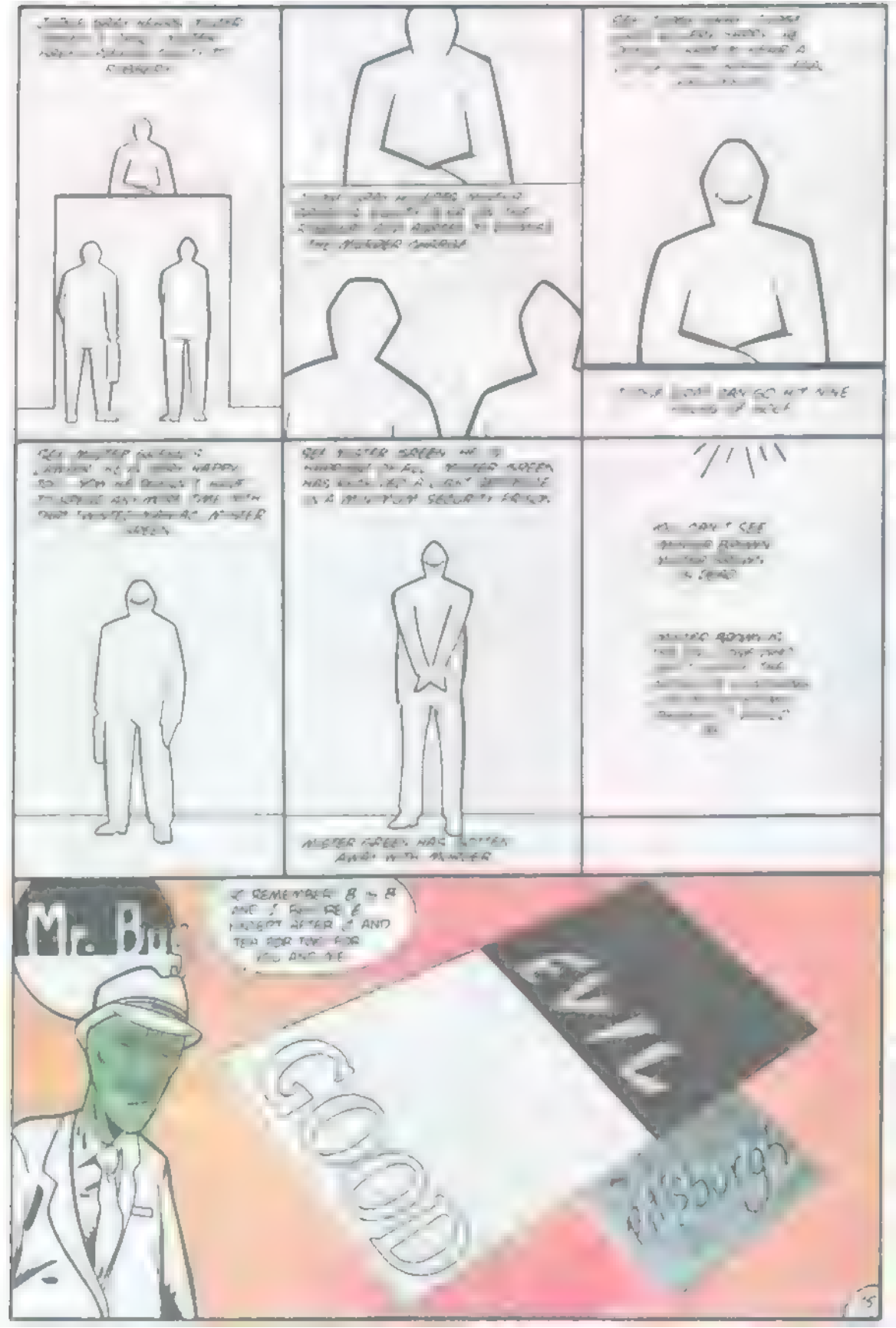
THE LAWYER TEACHES MISTER [illegible] THE NEW WORDS MISTER GREEN LEARNS FAST



THE NEW WORDS ARE

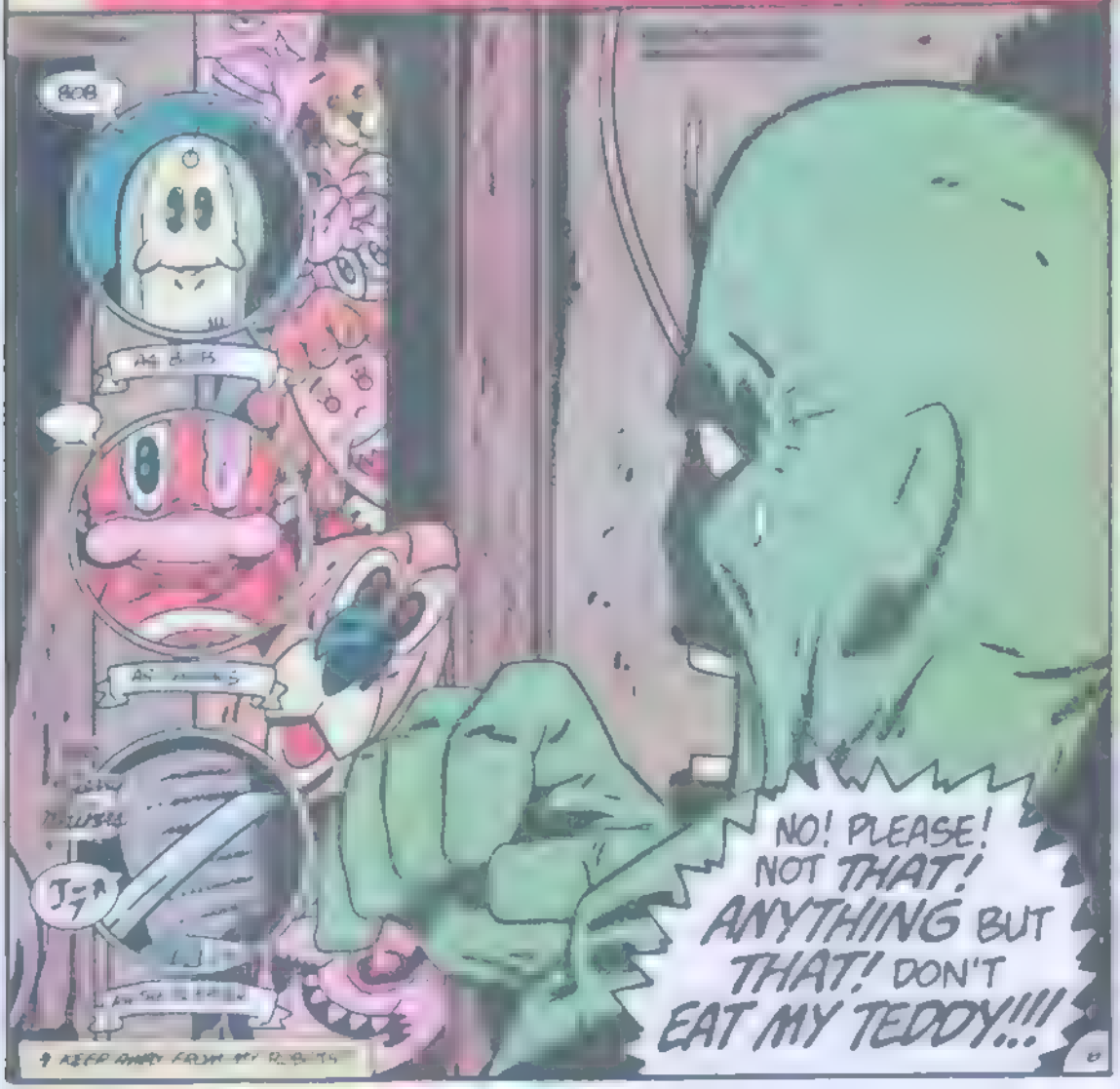
PLEA BARGAIN.

12


Mr. Bu
I REMEMBER B = B AND I REMEMBER E WHEN AFTER D AND TEN FOR THE FOR YOU AND ME
EVIL
Pittsburgh

CHOKE!

TALES SO SCARY YOU'LL — BREAK ALL YOUR FURNITURE



STIVAL
THE DEAD
DAWN OF
THE DEAD
ZOMBIE
NIGHT
THE LIV
DEAD
LOOK OUT!! THE ZOMBIES ARE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
OH, THEY GOT HER!
UGH!!
THEY'RE EATING HER ELBOWS! AND NOW THEY RE...
OH, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
HA
BUT CHEERS CAN'T BE
A ZOMBIE?!
IT CAN'T BE!
NOT MY SWEET LITTLE BABY BOY! HE CAN'T BE A ZOMB!
DOLLS AIN'T
I'M A TELLING YOU THE KIDS THEY COME TO LIFE!
DOLLS!
I TELL THEM-- GO LAY DOWN! IT'S-A CHRISTMAS' 'AY! I NEED-A DA CASH!
C
CAT
THE COW GOES
MOOOOO
IT'S A CRAZY BUT TRUE I'M A TALKING TO THEM
WHAT'S A MATTA FA YOU?

HERE HE COMES, HERE HE COMES, THAT CUTE L'L CUT-UP CALLED
CHEEKS
THE TOY WONDER
THEN A BOX OF WHAT IS WHO FELL OUT OF IT SOMEHOW AND HIT CHEEKS RIGHT ON THE HEAD!

AIIIEEEEEE*
GBLDBBBBBB!!
MY DOLLY! SOMETHING'S GOT MY DOLLY!!
GLOB!!
IT CARRIED HER INTO THOSE BUSHES!*
YUM YUM YUM YUM
GILLESPIE!
SNACK SNACK
YUM YUM YUM YUM YU--HUM?!
DOLL-BOY
CHEEKS! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!? JUST LOOK AT YOU!! WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF, MISTER??
SORRY SORRY SORRY SORRY
WELL, THAT'S JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL THOSE CHILDREN ABOUT THEIR DOLL? WHAT? WELL, OKAY.

SINCE MY WIFE DIED AND I HAD MY LEFT LUNG CUT... IT'S BEEN HARD KEEPING UP WITH MY
ESPECIALLY RUNNING FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME... SHOPPING LIKE ME FOR INSTANCE
ALL OF WHICH JUST GOES TO SHOW FOLKS
THERE GOES BUBBA NOW, BUT DON'T WORRY SHERRIE DEAR, HE SAYS THAT THEY DO ONLY EAT OTHER DOLLS!
SHERRIE DEAR, FINISH YOUR SHOPPING, SWEETY MAMA'LL BE BACK TO YOU, OKAY
PLEEZE STAND BY
WOW!
I NEVER KNEW GRAY PLANTER HAD HIS LEFT LUNG CUT!!
CHEEKS NEVER MIND AND I KNOW BUT I LOVED HIM ANYWAY
I GUESS YOU ALWAYS HAVE A BLIND SPOT WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR KIDS
I'M NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO SLEEP WONDERING WHERE MY DOLL IS
AW, WAIT A MINUTE HOW DID WE GET BACK FROM THE DEAD? AND WHO TURNED HIM INTO A ZOMB? AND NOW THE HECK ARE WE GONNA F/X THIS MESS REVIEW JULIE SEES IT" HEY, KEITH! THESE BOOKS ARE ONLY MONTHS AROUND 10 WHEN WE GET CANNED!!

HEEK
SHEEKS
QUITE CORRECT CREDDA
THANKS
-- WOW
QUITE VERY CUTE

RING RING RING
RING RING
RING RING
JESS
CLICK
RING
ROOF! ROOF!
ROOF! ROOF!
ROOF! ROOF!

POOR LITTLE CAMERA WAS THE LAST OF A DYING BREED I'LL NEVER FORGET THE TIME
AAEEEE
HELP ME, PLEASE SOMEONE I CAN'T BELIEVE
NO!!
BUT WHY?
CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH

CHEEKS
SOON IT STARTED TO GET DARK AND EVEN WORSE THAN THAT POOR LITTLE CHEEKS THOUGHT THAT HE HEARD MENACING NOISES COMING UP BEHIND HIM
HE DID! HE DID! HE HEAR MENACING NOISES COMING UP BEHIND HIM
CHEEKS CONTINUED THE SEARCH FOR HIS OVERSIZED PLAYMATE.
THE SILENT DOLLS LOOKED VERY FAMILIAR TO CHEEKS
HE ASKED IF ANY OF THEM HAD BEEN
NONE OF THE DOLLS HAD, BUT THEY DID COME FORTH A PRESENT THAT THEY HAD ALL CHIPPED IN
IT WAS A VERY SPECIAL PRESENT IT WAS CALLED A HUMAN SACRIFICE
HE ATE IT UP.
"YOU ARE OUR KING!" THEY EXCLAIMED IT WAS EXTREMELY FLATTERING
"YOU ARE THE GREATEST LIVING DOLL!" THEY TOLD HIM

YAWN!
YEAH JULIE, I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU I'M GLAD THIS ISSUE IS OVER LOOKING BACK ON IT THOUGH, I THINK AS FAR AS THE QUALITY AND CONTENT OF THIS ONE YEP! A PRETTY FINE--
WHAT?!?
FORTY PAGES!!
THAT FRENCH ISLAND IN THE SEA, JAPAN
@!#!!
NO!! I CAN'T DO IT!
PLEASE, JULIE!
DON'T MAKE ME DO FORTY PAGES!!
YOU'VE GOT TO DO IT!
IT'S IN YOUR CONTRACT!
BUT WE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE FUNNY FOR 40 PAGES!
YOU QUITTER! MY JOKES AREN'T FUNNY AND I'VE BEEN AROUND FOR 40 YEARS!

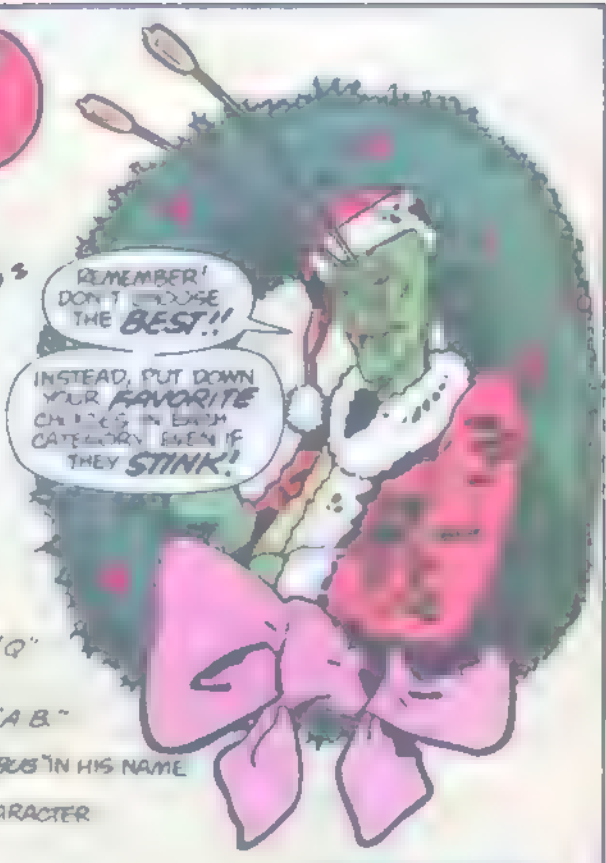
HOLIDAY HIJINKS
BLAST THEM!!
TO US!

Presents
SEASON'S GREETINGS
FROM AROUND THE WORLD AND BEYOND!
HAVE A VEDDY, VEDDY, VEDDY MEDDY CHRISTMAS!
HEAR! HEAR!
ENG
VOULEZ-VOUS ALLEZ AVEC MOI?
FRANCE
TV? IS TV? I AM TV STAR, JES? DYNASTY? MEESTER ED?
CUT!
SPAIN
MELLY CHLISTMAS, AMELICA!
JAP
:MMMMMPH: :MMPHAMUFFA: :MAFUMAPHA!:
SOVIET UNION
JOYEUX JOR-EL
KRYPTON
27

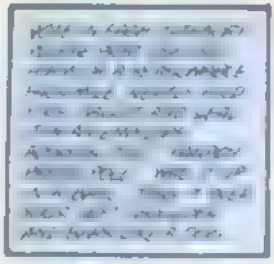
THE FIRST ANNUAL

FANBOY PRESS

"Why not the Best?" POPULARITY POLL!



FAVORITE WRITER
FAVORITE PENCILLER
FAVORITE INKER
FAVORITE COLORIST
FAVORITE EDITOR
BEST MAN
MATRON OF HONOR
FAVORITE WORD STARTING WITH THE LETTER "Q"
FAVORITE INDICIA
FAVORITE COMIC BOOK
FAVORITE COMIC BOOK WITH THE INITIALS "A B."
FAVORITE COMIC BOOK CHARACTER
FAVORITE COMIC BOOK CHARACTER WITH "BOB" IN HIS NAME
FAVORITE LIBERATED FEMALE CHARACTER
FAVORITE BOD ON A LIBERATED FEMALE CHARACTER
CAPITAL OF WISCONSIN
FAVORITE KEITH GIFFEN PLOT·
FAVORITE KEITH GIFFEN PENCILS
FAVORITE ROBERT JOREN FLEMING BALLOONS
FAVORITE BOB OKSNER INKS
FAVORITE ANTHONY TOLLIN COLORS
FAVORITE JULIUS SCHWARTZ FAVORITISM·
FAVORITE METHOD OF HIDING THE CREDITS IN A COMIC BOOK·
FAVORITE PAPER STOCK IN A MANDO BOOK
FAVORITE COMIC BOOK COMPANY:
FAVORITE *OTHER* COMIC BOOK COMPANY
FAVORITE SUPER-HERO TEAM:
FAVORITE MUTANT:
FAVORITE UNIVERSAL PRODUCT CODE ON A COMIC BOOK
FAVORITE COVER NOT DRAWN BY JOHN BYRNE OR GEORGE PÉREZ
FAVORITE FIFTEEN *SECRET WARS* TIE-INS
FAVORITE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF A MAJOR COMIC BOOK COMPANY.
FAVORITE SHORTER, FATTER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF A MAJOR COMIC BOOK COMPANY
FAVORITE "DAY IN THE LIFE OF DICK" MEANWHILE... COLUMN



Favorite Letterer:

JOHN COSTANZA, DAMMIT!

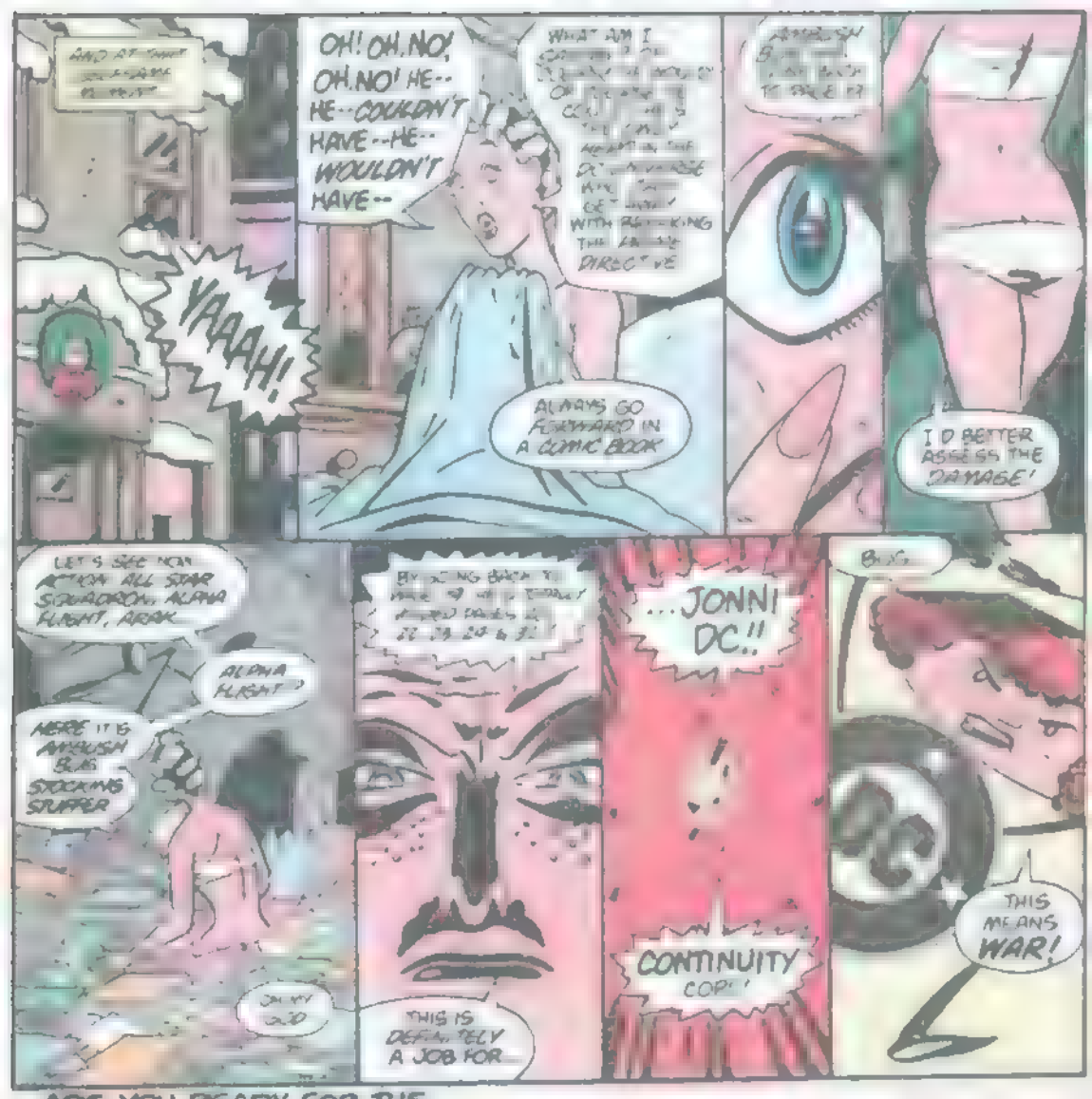
IF YOU ANSWERED "YES" TO ALL OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS... WHEW!

HE'S THROUGH LISTING!
LET THE NAUGHTY
BEWARE!
SANTA!
THEY SHOULD NEVER HAVE CALLED HIM MUTIE!
SEE HIM FROM HIS MUTIE-MOBILE IN NEW TEEN TITANS ANNUAL #8!
SANTA, WITH MY NOSE SO BRIGHT, CAN I GUIDE YOUR SLEIGH TONIGHT?
SHADDUP!!
I'M SICK OF MILK AND COOKIES! I'M SICK OF THE NORTH POLE! SO UP YOUR CHIMNEYS!!
YES, VIRGINIA! THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS!
HE [illegible] YOU WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING!
HE [illegible] WHEN YOU'RE AWAKE!
ANOTHER ALL ORIGINAL CONCEPT FROM THE NEW DC
29

SATURDAY MORNING TV!
HERE IT IS FOLKS THAT'S WHERE OUR L[illegible] E DRAL[illegible] P[illegible] A FEW POINTERS ON HOW TO SPEND THEIR PLAYTIME AND YOUR MONEY ON INDISPENSABLE TOYS!
WE'LL RETURN
AFTER THESE MESSAGES
AFTER YOU DEVOTE 4 & HALF HRS TO THE INSTRUCTIONS, IT WILL TURN INTO..
FORM ONE! IT WILL BE YOUR HOMEWORK AND SCARE THE DEVIL OUT OF YOUR PARENTS!
FORM TWO! IT WILL BE YOUR HOMEWORK
NOW BACK TO OUR SHOW! WE LEFT OUR INSIPID HEROES FACING THEIR ARCHFOE, DINO DONG THE SINGSONG MAN!
FELICITA! COSA, COSA!
BUMMER
AHEM
CUANTO BE-O SEMI-MENTO-
DINK-DONG I'M GONNA
YOU!
ZAP
ZAPATA
SCORPION!

OH, OH
NO BOY
WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK
AFTER THESE
MESSAGES
MOM! CAN I HAVE ONE OF THOSE?
HI GUYS! WIN A FREE PRIZE FIND A HIDE OR SEEK INSIDE
MOM DID I WON EARLY AND CAN I PLAY WITH IT?
FINISH YOUR GUACAMOLE FIRST
HIDE OR SEEK
THIS COULD BE YOU!
HOW DO YOU LIKE DINO DONG?
THERE YOU ARE MR AND MRS AMERICA DINO DONG THE DINOSONG MAN IS A-OKAY!
AW-RIIIIGHT!
THAT'S DIRTY, PUT IT IN YOUR MOUTH
WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK
AFTER THESE
MESSAGES

STEP RIGHT UP!
GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT!
STEP RIGHT UP!
BAR-B-QUE BUG'S
GET YOUR ROASTED CRICKETS RIGHT HERE, FOLKS!
GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT!
GET YOUR ROASTED-- YOUR ROASTED YOUR
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THIS IS REALLY WHAT OF CHEERS
I WONDER WHERE I CAN DO THIS IN THE NEXT 20 PAGES
THIS IS REALLY EMBARRASSING NOW I'M HEARING THE THEME CHEERS BECAME CHEERS AND--NO, I WON'T--I WON'T PANDER TO THE JEFANS, NOT EVEN IN A--
FLASHBACK?
THAT'S THE ONE
I GUESS AS HIS ... TO GET HIS PLOT MOVING
I TOLD JM NOT TA DO ANOTHER PAGES
IF ONLY YOUR DOOR I COULD FIND CHEERS
--BUT--NO LOSE HACK HACK' HE IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND
HE'S HIDING IN THE BUSHES ON PAGE NINETEEN, YOU JERK.
PAGE NINETEEN?
HEY, GREAT!
THAT IS ... IN THE FUNNY PART OF THE BOOK!


AND AT THAT
YAAAH!
OH! OH, NO! OH, NO! HE-- HE--COULDN'T HAVE--HE-- WOULDN'T HAVE--
WHAT AM I
ALWAYS GO FORWARD IN A COMIC BOOK
I'D BETTER ASSESS THE DAMAGE!
LET'S SEE NOW ACTION, ALL STAR SQUADRON, ALPHA FLIGHT, ARAK...
ALPHA FLIGHT?
HERE IT IS AMBUSH BUG STOCKING STUFFER
OH MY GOD
BY GOING BACK TO
THIS IS DEFINITELY A JOB FOR
...JONN! DC!!
CONTINUITY COP!
BUG
THIS MEANS WAR!

ARE YOU READY FOR THE

CRISIS

ON THE ONLY EARTH WE'RE ALLOWED TO USE!

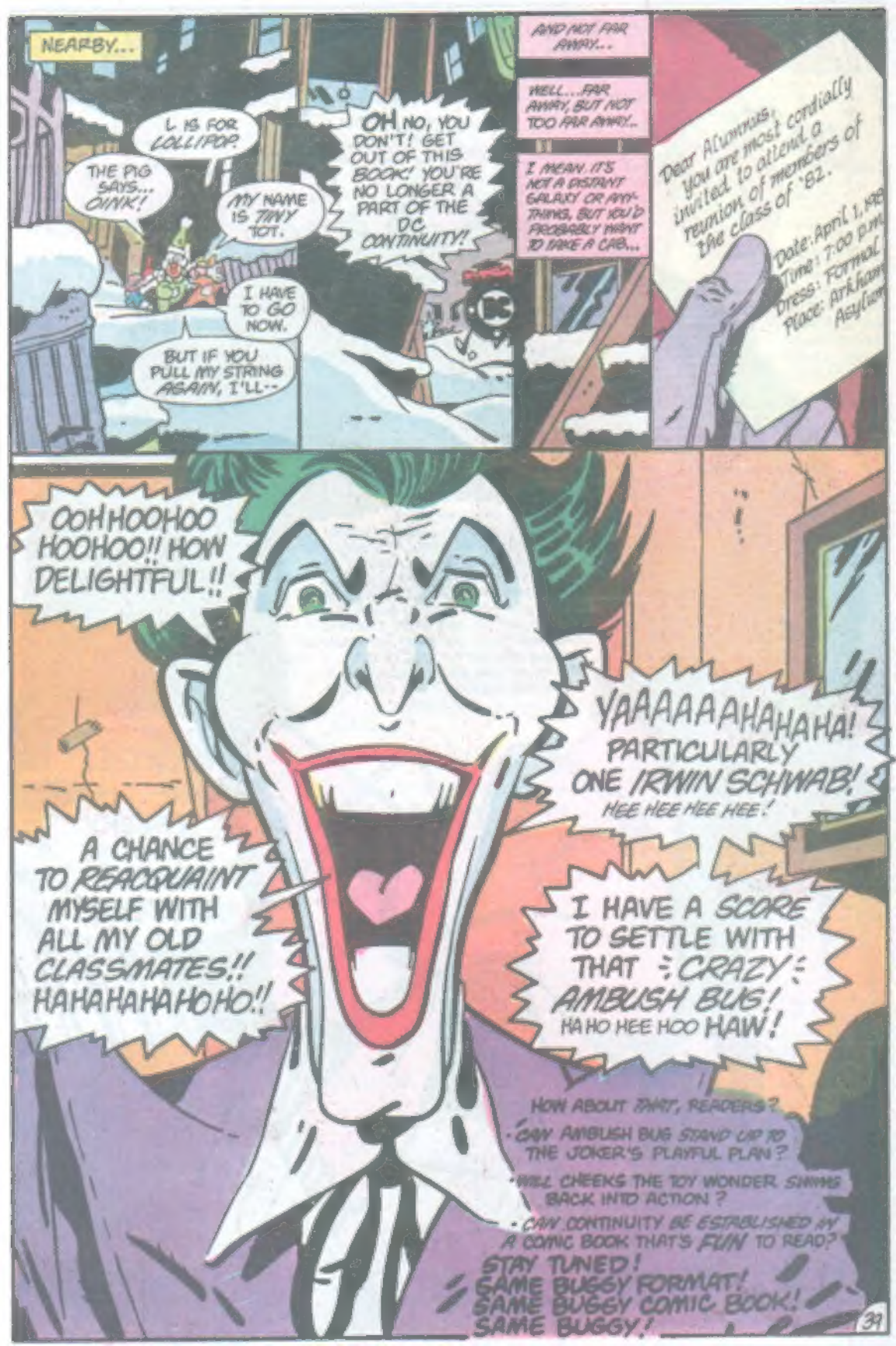
DADDY! DADDY!
WHY YOU DO THIS TO ME, DADDY?
IT'S NO USE, PAL! YOU'RE NOT FOOLIN' ME FOR A SECOND! YOU'RE NOT MY LITTLE CHEEKS! I KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

YOUR MOTHER DARNS SOCKS IN HELL!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BEAT ME
AND I'LL TELL YOU WHY! BECAUSE I LOVE THAT [illegible] BUT BECAUSE WE SHARE GOOD TIMES AND BAD BECAUSE LOVE IS THE STRONGEST FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE BECAUSE MY TRUE FEELINGS--
YOU LITTLE DEVIL!
SANDUST
CUTE
VERY CUTE
I HATE TO DO THIS TO JOHN BUT [illegible] WILL THANK ME FOR IT SOME DAY
A TALE OF FRIGHT! A FRIGHTFUL TALE
SLEEP
SATAN
NO PHONE! NO LIGHTS! NO MOTORCARS!
NOT A FRIGHTFUL LUXURY!
LIKE ROBINSON THE FRIGHTFUL
AS FRIGHTFUL AS CAN BE
SO JOIN US HERE EACH WEEK, MY FRIENDS, YOU'RE SURE TO GET A FRIGHT..!
CLOSED DOWN WAS THE STORE, 'TIL SOMEBODY'S PENDING A HEARING IN COMMON PLEAS COURT
DC
YOU MAY AS WELL PUT THE PENCIL DOWN
15

HALF YOU ANY-
WELL, UH...
THIS ISN'T YOUR PLAY-ROOM, MISTER THERE ARE RULES HERE!
BUT THIS IS A "FUN" BOOK! IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE FUN!
FUN?
FUN?!
NOW ACCORDING TO THIS PAGE YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO CUT FROM THE STREET VIEW FOR SCENE ON PAGE 32 DIRECTLY TO THE SANTA'S WORK-SHOP SECTION
THIS TIME... DO IT RIGHT!!
PLOT
AMBUSH BUG STOCKING STUFFER
AND DON'T HAVE ANY FUN, EITHER!!
AND BRING IN THE NORTH POLE SET
NOW SEE IF YOU CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE ON YOUR OWN AND REMEMBER, I'M WATCHING YOU.
I BETTER NOT HAVE TO COME BACK UP HERE!
BETTER
AND I'M IN BIG TROUBLE.

SANTA! SANTA! IS ANYBODY HOME?
GOLLY IT SURE LOOKS LIKE SNOW.
AAAHH HAHAHA HA HA!
DC COMICS INC
NEVER MIND
AAAAAH CHOO!
GESUNDHEIT!
I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU GUYS
YOU'VE WRECKED MY CHRISTMAS!
BUT BUG YOU'D BETTER--
WHAT? I'D BETTER WHAT? FALL OUT OF AN AIRPLANE? WOULD THAT AMUSE YOU?
OH GREAT! CORK CORK! ANOTHER FLASHBACK! CORK CORK
I WASN'T MUCH MUCH! EVEN THE VIKINGS ARE OUT CHEWS
YOU GUYS CORK CHOKE! ARE TRYING MIKE-ZAP TO TORTURE ME!
WHAT CORK! ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME CHOKE! NEXT?
MUH? CORK! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO NEXT?

I DON'T BELIEVE IT
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THESE GUYS REALLY ...
I THOUGHT THE WORLD OF THOSE GUYS
OH WELL
JUST BECAUSE ... AND ... ARE SCROOGES, I'M NOT GOING TO LET IT SPOIL MY CHRISTMAS.
NOT MUCH I'M NOT
HEY! GET BACK HERE, YOU CLOWNS! WE'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU
A SURPRISE?
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE ...
THEY DON'T ...
MERRY CHRISTMAS, AMBUSH BUG!
YEAH!
WAIT TILL I GET MY HANDS ON THAT YOUNG MAN ... HE'LL HAVE A VERY DIFFERENT SCARE!
OH BY THE WAY THE HOUSE BURNED DOWN WHILE YOU WERE GONE
NO DON'T WORRY DADDY'S OKAY
SANTA WE DON'T BELIEVE IN ONE OF THE CHRISTMAS DEMONS
I DON'T WORRY ABOUT 1 E.L.F. I HAVE THIRTY GANGS OF THEM BUILT AT THE WORKSHOP
HO HO HO!
38


NEARBY...
L IS FOR LOLLIPOP.
THE PIG SAYS... OINK!
MY NAME IS TINY TOT.
I HAVE TO GO NOW.
BUT IF YOU PULL MY STRING AGAIN, I'LL--
OH NO, YOU DON'T! GET OUT OF THIS BOOK! YOU'RE NO LONGER A PART OF THE DC CONTINUITY!
AND NOT FAR AWAY...
WELL...FAR AWAY, BUT NOT TOO FAR AWAY...
I MEAN, IT'S NOT A DISTANT GALAXY OR ANYTHING, BUT YOU'D PROBABLY WANT TO TAKE A CAB...
Dear Alumnus, You are most cordially invited to attend a reunion of members of the class of '82.
Date: April 1, 198
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Dress: Formal
Place: Arkham Asylum
OOH HOOHOO HOOHOO!! HOW DELIGHTFUL!!
A CHANCE TO REACQUAINT MYSELF WITH ALL MY OLD CLASSMATES!! HAHAHAHAHOHO!!
YAAAAAAHAHAHA! PARTICULARLY ONE IRWIN SCHWAB! HEE HEE HEE HEE!
I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THAT "CRAZY" AMBUSH BUG! HA HO HEE HOO HAW!
HOW ABOUT THAT, READERS?
• CAN AMBUSH BUG STAND UP TO THE JOKER'S PLAYFUL PLAN?
• WILL CHEEKS THE TOY WONDER SWING BACK INTO ACTION?
• CAN CONTINUITY BE ESTABLISHED BY A COMIC BOOK THAT'S FUN TO READ?
STAY TUNED! SAME BUGGY FORMAT! SAME BUGGY COMIC BOOK! SAME BUGGY!

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS
ON THAT VERY SPECIAL NIGHT, A LITTLE CHILD WAS DELIVERED, A GIFT FROM ABOVE. HE WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL CHILD, AND HE WAS LOVED BY EVERYONE WHO SAW HIM. HIS FATHER HAD NO JOB AND NO ROOF TO PUT OVER HIS BABY'S HEAD, BUT NONE OF THIS MATTERED, BECAUSE THEY WERE TOGETHER, AND THEY WERE HAPPY. THEY WOULD GO THROUGH GOOD TIMES AND THEY WOULD GO THROUGH BAD, BUT THE LOVE OF THAT FATHER, AND THAT CHILD WOULD ALWAYS TRIUMPH, BECAUSE IT WAS SELFLESS AND PURE.
A NECKTIE!?
CHEEKY, IT'S JUST WHAT I NEEDED!!
ONLY THE BEGINNING?
40

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DEAR ME!

I owe you all an apology.

During my mini-series earlier this year, I made some disparaging remarks about comic book readers. I ridiculed you and humiliated many members of your immediate families. I compared your brain capacities with that of the lowly pack rat. Worst of all, I presented demanding material and asked you to think. I should have known this would have a devastating effect.

I've driven you all crazy.

So to the many fans who sent me mail; to those who sent postcards of undraped women and beer cans; to the kid who claimed to have written the Hitler diaries; to the berserk family who mailed me a voodoo doll made of toilet paper, safety pins, and real human hair; to the idea man who suggested a monthly AMBUSH BUG team-up book entitled DC RESENTS; to the faithful follower who threatened to kill himself if I didn't go monthly; to the other gentle soul who promised to murder the entire DC staff with a steel girder ... I salute you!

Here's to a long life and better mental health!

Your pen pal,
AMBUSH BUG

I don't know if it's for real, but I say go for it! That's my comment.

HENRY SERRATO
213 W. Wilson
Harkagen, TX 78560

It's only a dream, Henry. Wake up and smell the coffee.

*****

Yes, I would love *Ambush Bug* to have his own comic book. PLEASE! I don't know if I could take much more of his being in *Superman's* comics.

NICOLA GARCIA
Box 259
Bronx, NY 10473

I think you're being unfair, Nicola. I'm always proud to appear in any of Superman's books, even the stinky ones.

*****

I am both *shocked* and *repulsed* by your admission of taking a $17.50 bribe from Robert Loren Fleming for emblazoning his name in a giant burst balloon!!

However, being the magnanimous person that I am, I'll pay you $18.00 and a *solid* copy of LOIS LANE #48 in exchange for seeing my *full, correctly-spelled name* somewhere in your book.

How about it, buddy? Deal??

ELVIS ORTEN
Route #4 Box 120
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

This is on the house, kid. I like your style.

*****

There hasn't been a really funny comic book series since ACG's *Herbie*. If you get your own permanent DC title, there still won't be one! Hyuk, hyuk!

TOM NESTER
16 Rim Road
Mapleridge Park
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T6P 1B9

Oh, yeah?! Well, at least I don't live on Rim Road!

*****

AMBUSH BUG is great! It's more fun than waiting in line at the grocery store!!

MATT FEAZELL
Box 5803
Raleigh, NC 27650

Don't be so cynical, Matt.

*****

Your mini-series was a lot of fun. My favorite part was your response to Stuart Rockafellow's letter in #2, "Stuart, who died and left you boss?"

ED CATTO
17 South Ave.
Ithaca, NY 14850

Shut-up, Ed.

*****

We were wondering if there will be a SUPER POWERS figure of you.

PAUL WILSON
TIM HOLUAGER
Winslow St.
Cumberland, MD 21502

P.S. If this letter is late, please don't kick your dog.

While there are no immediate plans for an Ambush Bug *SUPER POWERS figure, DC is going to release one of my* editor, *Julius Schwartz, to commemorate his recent birthday. You may have seen the special issue of SUPERMAN dedicated to Julie. Next month, the entire line of DC comics will become JS comics, in honor of this fine, great man ... oh, okay, Julie--just kiddin'!*

*****

Okay, the Bug can have his own book, but I expect Giffen and Fleming to do some *real* comic books, too. Who do they think they are?

JOHN HENRY SAIN
2251 Kings Highway
Medford, OR 97501

Giffen thinks that he's Bullwinkle the Moose. Fleming believes he's Mrs. Butterworth.

*****

I have come up with a plan to make you all *very rich*. First, give Ambush Bug his own regular, monthly book. Then have it go to the popular hardcover/softcover format. Reprint the stories from the deluxe book one year later in the newsstand book. Then reprint the same stories with different titles a year after that back in the deluxe book! You'll get paid for twice as many books while only doing half the work.

MATT LEWIS
104 Bennoch Rd.
Orono, ME 04473

Matt, you have a brilliant career ahead in comic book marketing.

*****

Remember my first letter I sent you (I'm the short pudgy one with the big nose) saying how you really didn't need ol' Supes as a foil and how you'd do big guns out on your own? Well, I take it back after reading AB #4, *where you got beat up by a sock!*

What does one have to do with the other? Plenty, pal. Remember your cinematic idols and ideals of your youth, Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, and Woody Woodpecker? They all started off from pretty much the same point; they were tricksters, chaos makers, happy agents of discord and disorder, a.k.a. extremely dangerous lunatics. BUT (and that's a plenty big but), then respectability began to settle down on them like a shroud. Bugs was the luckiest, becoming sort of a

cartoon Cary Grant, but Woody was settled into suburbia with the usual nephews and nieces, and Daffy became an animated Jack Nicholson. No more the merry pranksters were they. They got stuffy and stifled. THIS COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!!

Getting beaten up by that sock was the first warning sign. See, *you're* the one who's supposed to do the beating, the tricking and/or treating. But without any serious figure to amuse/confuse/abuse, you got stuck being the fall guy, an un-buggy role if ever there was one. Next thing you know, you'll be bedeviled by gophers, goats, children, and chipmunks! They'll make you a *Super Friend* and have Casey Kasem do your voice! You'll become part of the SUPER POWERS collection!

Sorry to get so rough with you, guy, but it had to be said.

S.A. BENNETT
P.O. Box 223
Allston, MA 02134

P.S. I won't plead like an idiot for your continued existence on account of I already *know* there's an AMBUSH BUG STOCKING STUFFER on the schedule.

Do you really think they could get Casey Kasem to do my voice? Heck, S.A., I want to become part of the SUPER POWERS collection! The main difference between me and those cartoon characters that you named is that I got into comics because it looked like a darned good career move. *Sure, the sock whipped me, but I also got to murder* Darkseid *in the very same issue! Just remember, I've got a mind of my own! I can't recall where I left it, but it's around here* somewhere.

*****

After seeing all four issues of the AMBUSH BUG mini-series, all I can say is: MORE! MORE! MORE! This quartet of comics was imaginative, witty, funny, and just plain fun! *Ambush Bug* has tons of charisma and fully deserves his very own regular series.

Herewith follows an issue-by-issue analysis:

#1—A terrific cover gets the series off to a running start. I grew very fond of Cheeks, the Toy Wonder. He was a brilliantly silly character—too bad he was killed off (if a "lifeless stuffed doll" *can* be killed off). I'm hoping he'll be resurrected someday. Being a registered Democrat and a bleeding heart liberal (not a Boll Weevil), I was delighted by the story's political stance. It always does my heart good to see a pack of arrogant right-wingers get beaten to a pulp and bracked with baseball bats! By the way, Congress really did approve funding for nerve gas production just a few weeks ago. Boy, are you guys prescient!

#2—For some reason, this seemed to be the best-printed of the four issues, really showing off that beautiful Keith Giffen-Bob Oksner artwork to best advantage. The very idea of a giant Koala bear menacing Metropolis was hilarious, and the story was a neat parody of the giant-monster-attacks-big-city plot. Most gloriously ridiculous moments: Ambush Bug flattened in the middle of a giant pawprint (page 14); Ambush Bug's experiment in the Paddywac lab blowing up in his face *three* times (!); the final-page depiction of Darkseid as a McDonald's order boy!! "The Ambush Bug Guide to Collecting Comics" was enjoyable and very useful as well. (I *used* to store my comics in a big freezer so they'd be cryogenically preserved.)

#3—This was probably my favorite of the four. I loved the look at all the bit players and minor clowns who will probably be left behind as DC cleans house and reforms its continuity. "Whatever Happened to Binky" was fun. The songs for Krypto and Streaky the Super Cat (page 6) were fall-on-the-floor funny, as was Ambush Bug's interview with Bat-Mite. ("This one time, I got Batman so torked-off that he choked on hot coffee and it came out his nose! Boy, those were the days!") "Bop-a-Bad-Guy" and the Ambush Bug Mart were neat. Also great was the history of Ace, the Bathound; Mopee's monologue; the Bizarro Ambush Bug; "The Grid and How to Use It"; and Ambush Bug's story about how LOIS LANE #48 changed his life! It was also nice to see the Inferior Five again, with an acknowledgment of their pioneering position in DC's Humor Hall of Fame. (I've always felt that Awkwardman was a fantastic character.) This entire issue was excellent!

#4—This issue started off great, with Bob's mom writing some priceless captions. ("Now we're in the locker room. Why, there are some lockers now!") I was overjoyed to see Scabbard resurrected, as he's always struck me as an incredible villain. That sword in his back just knocks me out! Keith Giffen did a fine job of depicting their fight, especially when he labeled the mushroom cloud as "Reagan." It was a good thing Scabby walked out when he did, as it may very well have been Mr. Bug's final battle! "Hard Socks" was an inspired piece of lunacy. Argh! Yle, with his Doctor Doom facemask, was, again, a brilliantly silly creation. The entire concept of a gang of evil, super-powered *socks* attacking Ambush Bug was hilarious! ("My worst nightmare has come all too true!!!") That cast party at the end was also very funny, with the running gag of an impending clash with *Darkseid* brought to a great conclusion. ("You saw it! He pulled a knife on me and I had to kill him! So that's *it* for 'Clash of the Titans!'")

This 4-issue series had gags galore, and Keith Giffen and Robert Loren Fleming deserve a standing ovation for some of the most imaginative, fresh, and wildly funny humor to be seen in any medium for a long time. Not every joke worked, of course, but for every dud there were seven or eight explosive laughs, a darn good ratio.

While *Ambush Bug* definitely lives in a world of his own, there were some intriguing references to some social issues in our own familiar little world. For example, there were the political references in issue #1, Merryman's discussion of Dumb Bunny in issue #3 ("Dumb Bunny was a dumb blonde! But, *hey!* It was the Sixties! We didn't know *then* that women were any good!"), and that odd and funny first panel on page 19 of issue #4 (White man: "Uh-oh! A black! I'd better stay cool—relax—maybe he won't notice me!" Black man: "Whoa! It's whitey! Maybe if I be cool, he won't hassle me!") that added an extra dimension to the humor.

The artwork in all four issues was brilliant! The art of Keith Giffen and Bob Oksner superbly complemented the mood and dry humor of the writing, reaching a high point in the hilariously depicted evil sock-men in ish 4. I was also impressed by the bizarre procession of background characters who inhabited the world of *Ambush Bug*, a gallery of strange-looking and often grotesque individuals who seldom spoke, but always seemed completely real. It was one of the many little unobtrusive things that made this mini-series so terrific.

Don't split up the great creative team of Giffen, Fleming, Oksner, Tollin, Costanza, and Schwartz when the regular series comes out. (I'm expecting an announcement of an AMBUSH BUG monthly or bimonthly series any day now!) I would like to see: the rebirth of Cheeks the Toy Wonder, further adventures of Argh! Yle, and the Bureau, and a confrontation between Ambush Bug and Dr. Derwood Denton. (Quack Quack.) Thanks to everyone for an entertaining and excellent mini-series!

DAVID PULLEYBLANK
Box 103
Denver, IA 50622

You can relax, David. We would never think of splitting up our fine creative team. We're all very close, like one big, happy family! Well ... not so much like a family. *More like a tightly knit group of* friends. *Then again, we're not exactly friends, either. We're sort of a* gang, *like a gang of really close* criminals *or* convicts *in a* jail.